

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1983BUENOS04357

UNCLASSIFIED

6/29/83

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

<<<<. >>>>

D498

R

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04357 01 OF 02 291855Z  
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 PM-08 MCT-02 SP-02 /056 W  
-----062626 301924Z /50

R 291844Z JUN 83  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7749  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as ☐ (☐) Extend as ☐ (☐) Downgrade to ☐

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 04357

CINCSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] COUP RUMORS AND THE CAMBIASO CASE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4129 (NOTAL)

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE BIGNONE REGIME HAS BEEN SHAKEN  
IN RECENT DAYS BY THE ANGRY REACTION IN THE ARMY TO A  
CIVILIAN COURT'S INVESTIGATION OF THE SHOOTING DEATHS OF  
TWO SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES. THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR  
AND JUSTICE HAVE COME UNDER HEAVY FIRE FOR FAILING TO  
STOP THE INVESTIGATION. THE CASE HIGHLIGHTS THE PRO-  
BLEMS OF PAST AND PRESENT ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WAR  
AGAINST SUBVERSION, PROBLEMS THAT WILL CONTINUE TO  
THREATEN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN ARGENTINA. END  
SUMMARY.

AGE 02 BUENOS 04357 01 OF 02 291855Z

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Case Number: 200000044

3. THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE HERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY AGITATED THIS LAST WEEK BY STREET RUMORS AND SPECULATION IN THE MEDIA ABOUT COUPS OR SEMI-COUPS. THE PROBLEM IS THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PEREIRA ROSSI-CAMBIASO CASE IN WHICH THREE POLICEMEN AND A POLICE DOCTOR HAVE BEEN DETAINED (REFTEL). THE WORD WE GET FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES IS THAT THERE IS DEEP RESENTMENT AMONG OFFICERS IN THE ARMY OVER THE PERCEIVED FAILURE OF INTERIOR MINISTER RESTON AND JUSTICE MINISTER LUCAS LENNON TO PREVENT JUDGE JUAN CARLOS MARCHETTI FROM PRESSING THIS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE CASE. (IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE EXECUTION OF THE TWO MEN WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT ORDERS FROM ON HIGH IN THE MILITARY.)

4. ON JUNE 23 ARMY GENERAL FERNANDO VERPLAETSEN, CHIEF OF POLICE OF BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, TOOK THE OCCASION OF A RETIREMENT CEREMONY TO DELIVER A STARTLING SPEECH WHICH IN EFFECT ATTACKED THE INVESTIGATION AND DETENTION OF HIS MEN WHILE DECLARING WAR TO THE DEATH ON "TERRORISM". ARMY CINC NICOLAIDES PUBLICLY ENDORSED VERPLAETSEN'S SPEECH THE NEXT DAY. WE ARE TOLD BY A SOURCE CLOSE TO FIRST CORPS COMMANDER TRIMARCO THAT NICOLAIDES MADE HIS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO A VIRTUAL ULTIMATUM FROM TRIMARCO AND THIRD CORPS COMMANDER GUANABENS PERELLO. BY THIS TIME THE RUMORS OF A MOVEMENT IN THE MILITARY TO FORCE OUT RESTON AT THE LEAST, OR PRESIDENT BIGNONE AT THE MOST, WERE ALREADY CIRCULATING.

5. LEAKS ALSO SPRUNG FROM THE HIGH COMMAND TO THE EFFECT THAT THE JUNTA WOULD INSIST ON REMOVING THE CASE FROM MARCHETTI'S JURISDICTION AND TURNING IT OVER TO A MILITARY COURT. (AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 04357 01 OF 02 291855Z

BY PRODUCING EVIDENCE THAT THE POLICEMEN WERE ACTING UNDER DIRECT MILITARY ORDERS.) SECOND CORPS COMMANDER ESPOSITO ADDED TO THE CONFUSION BY TELLING THE PRESS THAT HE THOUGHT THE CASE SHOULD REMAIN IN THE CIVILIAN COURT. (CAMBIASO AND PERIRA ROSSI WERE OSTENSIBLY KIDNAPPED IN ROSARIO WHICH IS IN ESPOSITO'S JURISDICTION.)

5. AS IS USUAL IN THESE CONFLICTS IT IS DIFFICULT TO

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1983BUENOS04357

Page: 3  
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

DETERMINE WITH PRECISION WHO AMONG THE GENERALS IS ON WHICH SIDE. BUT IT DOES SEEM CLEAR THAT TRIMARCO AND RESTON, THE SECOND- AND THIRD-RANKING ARMY OFFICERS RESPECTIVELY, ARE THE MAIN CONTESTANTS. TRIMARCO CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS NICOLAIDES AND THE JUNTA TO SWITCH THE CASE TO THE SAFE HANDS OF MILITARY JUSTICE AND TO GET RID OF RESTON. IN THE FIRST EVENT THE OUTCRY FROM POLITICIANS AND PRESS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE IMPRESSIVE; IN THE SECOND, BIGNONE, WHO HAS PUBLICLY PROMISED TO STAND BY HIS CABINET, WOULD BE SEVERELY CHALLENGED. THAT TRIMARCO WILL GET HIS WAY, HOWEVER, IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED. RESTON IS A TOUGH AND WILY POLITICAL GENERAL WHO PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN BRINGING DOWN GALTIERI A YEAR AGO AND WHO SINCE HAS WITHSTOOD NUMEROUS EFFORTS BY DISCONTENTED OFFICERS TO HAVE HIM SACKED.

7. THE CAMBIASO-PEREIRA CASE HIGHLIGHTS FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE ARGENTINE POLITY. THE ARMED FORCES AND THE SECURITY SERVICES--AT LEAST IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THEM--HAVE YET TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO CIVILIAN JUSTICE IN CASES INVOLVING SUBVERSION. THAT REJECTION IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LEGACY OF THE DIRTY WAR. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE SERVICES CAN BE BROUGHT UNDER FULL CONSTITUTIONAL CONTROL UNTIL THERE IS SOME AGREEMENT ON THE PAST; I.E., PAST AND PRESENT ACCOUNTABILITY ARE INSEPARA-

[REDACTED]  
NNN  
[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04357 02 OF 02 291855Z  
ACTION ARA-16

NFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	NSC-01	NSAE-00	SY-06	PM-08	MCT-02	SP-02	/056 W
				-----062624 301925Z /50			

. 291844Z JUN 83  
M AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
O SECSTATE WASHDC 7750  
NFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
MEMBASSY BRASILIA  
MEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
MEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
SCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1983BUENOS04357

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 4  
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 04357

BLY LINKED. THE OUTLOOK FOR A RESOLUTION TO THIS DILEMMA  
IS NOT PROMISING AND THE COUNTRY WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO  
LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT FOR SOME TIME TO COME. IN THE  
MEANTIME, THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE SOME VERY ROUGH  
SPOTS ALONG THE ROAD TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.  
SHLAUDEMAN

[REDACTED]  
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED